(b) the total number of sub-divisional Head-Quarters likely to be linked with STD during the current financial year;

(c) the total number of telephones working in the country at present;

(d) whether Government have drawn up schemes to double the phone connections; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof? "

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITCATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) It has been planned to connect all Sub-Divisional Head Quarters with the STD network by 1995.

(b) About 126 sub-divisional headquarters have been proposed to be brought on subscribers trunk dialling network during 1990-91.

(c) 46.12 lakh direct exchange lines as on 30-4-1990.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, the draft 8th Plan envisages net addition of 52 lakh new connections.

U.S. aid to churches in India

1721. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 26-5-1990 regarding fraud in US aid granted to Churches to India for the benefit of poor;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter if so, what is the amount of money involved and number of Church officials identified in this fraud; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to avoid such frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An American accounting firm Price Waterhouse conducted the audit for USAID. The report was received in the Ministry of External Affairs. It brings out misappropriation of small quantities of food stuffs over a period of time. The Central Bureau of Investigation has been asked to look into the irregularities brought out in the report. Since the audit was commissioned by USAID, it is essentially for them to take follow up action.

Bridge over Mandovi River in Goa

1722. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stayed the work of approach road to the new Mandovi bridge in Goa;

(b) if so, what made Government to stall this work at this advance stage in the name of threat to environment;

(c) whether Government would ensure at the initial stage of sanctions of the bridges that proper NOC are obtained from various Ministries; and

(d) the number of such projects delayed in the name of ecology and environment throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Proper prescribed procedure is followed to obtain NOC from the concerned Ministries.

(d) No major bridge work on National Higway has been delayed.